



THE

SOUTHERN CROSS

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CHRISTMAS — GOD WITH YOU.

Behold, a virgin shall.....bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Matthew 1:23.

Have you ever felt the full impact of that sentence? To me, it is the most shocking sentence ever written. Think of the terrific contrast: a helpless little babe in a manger, over against the Almighty Everlasting God. Yet this sentence dares to tell us that one night at Bethlehem these two became all wrapped up together in a cradle in a cattle barn. It dares to say that in one tremendous moment all the power and glory of God confronted all the weakness and sorrow of mankind. God met man, and on man's own level!

Now that is quite a shock, but there is even a greater one to follow. God went on to actually live man's life, and even to die his death, and to conquer both life and death. That is the message of Christmas, Emman-u-el, God with us, in our life and our death. But the biggest shock of all is that this thing is happening still!

It happens in your devotions, when you read the Bible. Some printer's ink on the pages of a book — as common and earthly as a cradle. And yet, when you read that Book with open heart, something happens to you. You find yourself met, confronted by a presence — Emmanuel. Bethlehem's barn all over again.

It happens in the sacraments. Some water poured or sprinkled on an infant's head. A glass of wine and a piece of bread. In themselves, these things are common and earthbound. And yet, it happens again. Disguish behind and beneath such swaddling clothes you know you have been found and blessed — Emmanuel.

It even happens in a sermon. A weak and all too human man stands up to speak. His words are the words of man. And yet, wrapped in those sentences comes the Word of God — Emmanuel.

And in the miracle of prayer. A few words uttered into empty space, a heart broken and overflowing with no one to hear. And then, suddenly your eyes are opened and in such a humble cradle you see — Emmanuel.

And then your friend is sick. You visit him. Or hungry, and you give him bread. And when you get very close to your friend you begin to feel that Third Person is there—Emmanuel. "Inasmuch...., ye have done unto Me."

One day you begin to realize that Christmas will never really need to be over, that when all our years have been done away, then we can have "God with us" closer than ever. What a shock, what a supremely sacred shock that sentence can give. It could shock us to — Life!

Pastor GEBERT

Bel Air Parish

ST. ANDREW — LE - RESOUVENIR

Pastor — A. R. BOWEN (Acting)

From Under The Peepers Tree :

Lots of things have happened since our last news. A school and pastor's house were built at Chateau Margot. The school was opened on April 20, and now has an enrolment of over 352.

This school affords very good opportunity for Evangelism among children and we are seizing the opportunity. From the very outset we started regular school devotions; the children love these periods and look forward to them.

Children from the school and members of the Luther League were responsible for the Harvest Program and are now responsible for the Christmas Program.

The teachers are very co-operative in every sphere of our work and special thanks are due to the headteacher for his leadership.

Catechist — ARNOLD PERSAUD

This year our Harvest Offering doubled last year's and is at all times high.

We have already paid our apportionment in full.

With the opening of our school, our Sunday School jumped from 60 — 90 — 120 and now reaches around 216 per week.

Our Junior Luther League and Library have also jumped high in attendance.

What a humble start — from under the Peepers Tree in Le-Resouvenir estate around 16 years ago.

God has purposed His work and will continue to do so as long as it is Christ-centered.

"Let every creature rise and bring peculiar honours to our King".

Upper East Coast Demerara Parish

ST. MATTHEW — FAIRFIELD

Pastor — A. R. BOWEN

This congregation continues in its growth of membership. The Women's League that was recently organised by the Catechist is doing a fine job in Evangelism. They are presently working for a Baptismal Font.

Expressions of sympathy are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Mariapen whose son lost one of his toes, and to Mr. Veerasammy and

Catechist — A. BOURHAN

family who suffered the loss by fire of their tobacco drier.

Sunday School : Columbia Sunday School says thanks to the Ince's family for allowing them to hold Sunday School below their house in the past years. Now a more suitable place is acquired at the Singh's where service is always being kept. To them we say a big "Thank You."

Upper East Coast Demerara Parish — *Continued*

BEE HIVE PREACHING POINT

On Sunday, October 25, at 3.00 p.m. Harvest Thanksgiving was celebrated. Despite the bad weather the service was very well attended.

Child Baptism: Baby Premdas.

Adult Baptism: Seebarran Singh.

Catechist — HARRY PERSAUD

Confirmation: Elaine Persaud and June Singh.

Members are eagerly looking forward with great hope for the day when a better place for worship will be available.

SALEM — BACHELOR'S ADVENTURE

Pastor — A. R. BOWEN

The members and children of this congregation are pushing hard for a successful harvest. Together with this, they are looking forward with joy to having their usual Christmas Concert in memory of the birth of our only Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Many of our people in this congregation are endeavouring to become sincere Stewards in the true sense of the word for the glory of

Catechist — R. L. SINGH

their Heavenly Father.

A blessed and joyous Christmas Service is also being anticipated.

Luther League: The leaguers are striving together in the spirit of unity to build and maintain a strong league. They do not fail in their attendance at the meetings. They love giving to the support of their objective.

HOLY TRINITY — BUXTON

Pastor — A. R. BOWEN

On November 2, the United Reformation Service was held at the Friendship Methodist Church at 6.00 p.m.

Our Church joined in a procession with members of the other Protestant Churches here. Pastor W. E. Cox, B.A., B.D. was the guest speaker. Mrs. Martha Cox sang solos which received great applause. The congregation appreciated the wonderful contributions from Pastor and Mrs. Cox.

Among the commendations was this statement that "this was the best attendance since the advent of this Reformation Service at Buxton." The combined District Luther League Choir numbering over fifty voices was undoubtedly the most impressive of all the other Church groups. We congratulate our young people for their willing co-operation.

Catechist — J. R. SINGH

Harvest: "Come ye thankful people come, join the song of Harvest Home" was sung in the spirit of reality to God, our Maker and Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Our people turned out in large numbers for the celebration and to partake of the Sacrament of the altar. We had a successful Harvest.

Child Baptism: John Lakaram and Ingrid Budhu.

Adult Baptism: Miss Lilian Singh.

Confirmation: Mr. and Mrs. Lalta Persaud and Walter Deonarine.

At 7.00 p.m. a Harvest Programme including a pageant entitled "The Cross in the midst of the year" was presented by the children of the Sunday School. The proceeds was the best for the past year.

Buxton Parish

MESSIAH — NON PARIEL

Pastor — A. R. BOWEN

Lay-Reader — JOHN S. ABDOOL

Playlet: "The Robe" was dramatically staged by the Luther League on September 30, 1959. The Church was filled and everyone enjoyed it. The Chairman was Pastor Bowen who highly congratulated the participants.

Baptism: Floria Persaud, Reenie Persaud, Amarnauth Persaud, Nayadu Persaud, Seeriechand Persaud and Dennis Waldron.

Anniversary: Our Second Anniversary of Dedication was celebrated on October 28, 1959. A very forceful and inspiring sermon was preached by the guest speaker, Pastor O. A. Lupe of Buxton.

We thank God for His grace and may He bless us as we serve Him faithfully everyday.

SADHU SUNDAR SINGH — TRIUMPH

Pastor — A. R. BOWEN

Catechist — A. A. KOWLESSAR

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." On Sunday, November 15, at 10.00 a.m. the Church was filled when members and friends gathered together in a special way to give praise and glory to Almighty God for a successful Harvest of the year.

Everyone listened with rapt attention to the message of realism delivered by the Pastor in charge.

In the evening at 7.00 p.m. was the Harvest Program. There was no room to accommodate the very large crowd who attended. They witnessed especially the two soul-stirring dialogues "The Two Breakfasts" and "A Joyous Christian" so well given by our young people.

It is a good thing that the Church is flat on the ground, so that while the doorway was crowded, others could have pushed their heads through the windows to see what was taking place.

It was indeed a successful Harvest and the total received reached the three figure mark. We are happy to report that our apportionment for 1959 has been met in full. We express our thanks to our faithful members who kept their pledges and made this possible once again.

Received into full membership of the Church are: Catherine Evangeline McRae and Nazim Anthony Bacchu.

Baptism: Pamela Emily Jansen, Sandra Sookdai Mangal, Shirley Ragbir and Rene Chaitkumarie Sookhai. We give praise and glory to Almighty God for His wondrous works to the children of men.

We extend to you our prayers for a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year. May we strive to be stronger and faithful to Christ, our Saviour in building His Kingdom.

Lower Corentyne Parish

ST. STEPHEN — BUSH LOT FARM

Pastor — E. B. MEYER

Sunday, November 15, was a most glorious day in the history of St. Stephen congregation. On that day this congregation observed its Annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

The building was tastefully decorated with flowers, coconut palms and fern plants. All present at this service were very happy as thanksgiving and praise were rendered to Almighty God for His many blessings bestowed upon all throughout the past year. The service started at 8.00 a.m. and a large gathering participated.

The Rev. E. B. Meyer brought a most stirring message and reminded the congregation of the overflowing stream of blessings from our Heavenly Father and admonished the congregation to show their thankfulness by faithful discipleship.

St. Stephen congregation has proven itself to be on the march and has progressed very nicely under the able leadership of the Catechist.

It is the first time in history that this congregation reached the \$300.00 mark with gifts and offering on Harvest Sunday.

ST. LUKE — CROMARTY

Pastor — E. B. MEYER

It was a very happy occasion on November 22, 1959 when members assembled themselves both in the Church and in the yard to listen to an inspiring sermon preached by Rev. E. B. Meyer, entitled "Why should we thank God?"

It was very pleasant to see how our members co-operated in decorating the Church with their gifts, branches and bananas. Above all we are highly gratified over what this Harvest yielded both in gifts and offerings. A total of \$210.00 was received.

We the members want to thank our new catechist much for his vigorous effort in making his first Harvest with us a great success.

Catechist — J. M. RAMLOCHAN

It is very gratifying to know that the harvest yield amounted to \$309.07.

Much credit should be given to Catechist Ramlochan and to Miss Sooklall for their vigorous efforts in making this harvest a success.

On Sunday, November 15, at 7.00 p.m. the Sunday School children presented a fine harvest programme to a large gathering. The children acted exceedingly well.

We thank Almighty God for all our achievements, and we hope and pray for His richest blessings throughout the coming year.

Harvest Committee : This committee was formed to take care of the harvest gifts and sale:

Brijbassie Somwaroo	David Khublall
Harold Ramsammie	P.C. Ramsarran
Sukhia Ramcharran.	

The pastor and catechist wish to thank this committee for their invaluable assistance.

Catechist — J. M. RAMLOCHAN

Much credit should be ascribed to St. Stephen's Sunday School children who rendered a fine Harvest Programme on the very evening at 7.00 p.m. at our Church.

Presently, we are handicapped by not having a good building but a project is at hand for the construction of a new concrete chapel in this very district of Cromarty.

A committee has been formed to make plans for the contributions toward the "Furnishing Fund" of the new building which is to come.

Members of this committee are as follows: Mrs. Mary Persaud, Messrs. P. Bhiri, C. Drepaal, Miss A. Drepaal and Mrs. L. Richardson.

Report from the Stewardship Office

Your Stewardship Secretaries report with great joy that ninety one point five per cent (91.5%) of the 1959 apportionment goal has been met as follows:

Apportionment for 1959	\$24,610.00
Received from congregations		\$21,409.54	
Received from Preaching Points and Sunday School	1,112.29		22,521.83
Deficit for 1959	\$ 2,088.17

1959 APPORTIONMENT RESULTS

1. SKELDON PARISH

Congregations		Apportionment for 1959—\$ 1,136.00			Due
	Apportionment	Paid	Over		
1. Nativity	\$ 256.00	\$ 260.00	\$ 4.00		
2. Emmanuel	380.00	395.00	15.00		
3. St. Philip	250.00	250.00	—		
4. St. Matthias	250.00	250.00	—		
	\$ 1,136.00	\$ 1,155.00	\$ 19.00		
Preaching Point — St. Barnabas		175.00			
	\$ 1,136.00	\$ 1,330.00	\$ 194.00		
Apportionment	\$ 1,136.00	Congregations	\$ 1,155.00		
Paid	1,330.00	Preaching Point	175.00		
Over	194.00		\$ 1,330.00		

2. LOWER CORENTYNE PARISH

		Apportionment for 1959—\$ 2,839.00		
5. St. Luke	\$ 360.00	\$ 365.00	\$ 5.00	
6. St. Stephen	318.00	323.00	5.00	
7. St. Michael	260.00	265.00	5.00	
8. St. James	250.00	255.00	5.00	
9. St. John	821.00	826.00	5.00	
10. St. Peter	500.00	502.00	2.00	
11. St. Bartholomew	330.00	332.00	2.00	
	\$ 2,839.00	\$ 2,868.00	\$ 29.00	
Apportionment	\$ 2,839.00			
Paid	2,868.00	Over	\$ 29.00	

3. CANJE, LOWER BERBICE RIVER PARISH

		Apportionment for 1959—\$ 1,939.00		
12. Transfiguration	\$ 560.00	\$ 575.76	\$ 15.76	
13. St. Thomas	590.00	600.26	10.26	
14. St. Clement	256.00	301.59	45.59	
15. St. Mark	250.00	282.43	32.43	
16. St. Catherine	283.00	305.64	22.64	
	\$ 1,939.00	\$ 2,065.68	\$ 126.68	
Apportionment	\$ 1,939.00			
Paid	2,065.68	Over	\$ 126.68	

4. NEW AMSTERDAM PARISH

		Apportionment for 1959—\$ 5,380.00		
17. Ebenezer	\$ 4,720.00	\$ 3,681.65		\$ 1,038.35
18. St. Timothy	660.00	660.60	\$.60	
	\$ 5,380.00	\$ 4,342.25		
Apportionment	\$ 5,380.00			
Paid	4,342.25	Due	\$ 1,037.75	

Apportionment Results — Continued

5. UPPER BERBICE RIVER PARISH				
Apportionment for 1959 = \$4,713.00				
Congregations	Apportionment	Paid	Over	Due
19. Grace	\$ 532.00	\$ 542.06	\$ 10.06	
20. Reformation	585.00	354.00		\$ 231.00
21. Atonement	380.00	252.99		127.01
22. Mt. Hermon	709.00	287.53		421.47
23. St. Paul	940.00	667.27		272.73
24. Mt. Carmel	857.00	514.89		342.11
25. Mt. Olivet	710.00	534.83		175.17
	\$ 4,713.00	\$ 3,153.57	\$ 10.06	\$ 1,569.49
Preaching Points				
Riverside Chapel		\$ 180.29		
Hururu		287.00		
	\$ 4,713.00	\$ 3,620.86		
Apportionment	\$ 4,713.00	Congregations		\$ 3,153.57
Paid	3,620.86	Preaching Points		467.29
Due	1,092.14			\$ 3,620.86
6. WEST COAST BERBICE PARISH				
Apportionment for 1959 — \$2,612.00				
26. Good Shepherd	\$ 530.00	\$ 456.00		\$ 74.00
27. Resurrection	274.00	275.00	\$ 1.00	
28. Nazareth	270.00	271.00	1.00	
29. Faith	280.00	281.00	1.00	
30. Advent	290.00	291.00	1.00	
31. Hope	490.00	262.31		227.69
32. Christ	478.00	218.00		260.00
	\$ 2,612.00	\$ 2,054.31	\$ 4.00	\$ 561.69
Sunday School				
Blairmont Settlement		35.00		
	\$ 2,612.00	\$ 2,089.31	\$ 4.00	\$ 561.69
Apportionment	\$ 2,612.00	Congregation		\$ 2,054.31
Paid	2,089.31	Sunday School		35.00
Due	522.69			\$ 2,089.31
7. UPPER EAST COAST PARISH				
Apportionment for 1959 — \$946.00				
33. Bethany	\$ 256.00	\$ 150.00		\$ 106.00
34. St. Matthew	270.00	291.00	\$ 21.00	
35. Holy Communion	420.00	205.00		215.00
	\$ 946.00	\$ 646.00	\$ 21.00	\$ 321.00
Preaching Points				
Bethlehem		70.00		
Augsburg		150.00		
Bee Hive		80.00		
	\$ 946.00	\$ 946.00	\$ 21.00	\$ 321.00
Apportionment	\$ 946.00	Congregations		\$ 646.00
Paid	946.00	Preaching Point		300.00
				\$ 946.00

Apportionment Results — Continued**8. BUXTON PARISH****Apportionment for 1959 — \$1,342.00**

Congregations	Apportionment	Paid	Over	Due
36. Salem	\$ 280.00	\$ 282.00	\$ 2.00	
37. Messiah	292.00	294.00	2.00	
38. Holy Trinity	450.00	450.00		
39. Sadhu Sundar Singh	\$ 320.00	320.00		
	\$ 1,342.00	\$ 1,346.00	\$ 4.00	

Apportionment \$ 1,342.00
Paid 1,346.00

Over \$ 4.00

9. BEL AIR PARISH**Apportionment for 1959 — \$1,253.00**

40. St. Andrew	\$ 353.00	\$ 353.00		
41. St. Mary	380.00	380.00		
42. Redeemer	520.00	520.00		
	\$ 1,253.00	\$ 1,253.00		

Apportionment \$ 1,253.00
Paid 1,253.00

10. GEORGETOWN PARISH**Apportionment for 1959 — \$2,450.00**

43. Calvary	\$ 850.00	\$ 940.00	\$ 90.00	
44. Epiphany	1,240.00	1,240.00		
45. Mt. Zion	360.00	195.73		\$ 164.27
	\$ 2,450.00	\$ 2,375.73	\$ 90.00	\$ 164.27

Preaching Point
Vreed-en-hoop

135.00

Apportionment	\$ 2,450.00	\$ 2,510.73	\$ 90.00	\$ 164.27
Paid	2,510.73	Congregations		\$ 2,375.73
		Preaching Point		135.00
				<u>\$ 2,510.73</u>

Over

60.73

11. RUIMVELDT PARISH

46. Ascension

Parishes**Congregations****Preaching Points
and Sunday School**

1. Skeldon	\$ 1,155.00	\$ 175.00
2. Lower Corentyne	2,868.00	
3. Canje, Lower Berbice Parish	2,065.68	
4. New Amsterdam	4,342.25	
5. Upper Berbice River	3,153.57	467.29
6. West Coast Berbice	2,054.31	35.00
7. Upper East Coast	646.00	300.00
8. Buxton Parish	1,346.00	
9. Bel Air Parish	1,253.00	
10. Georgetown Parish	2,375.73	135.00
11. Ruimveldt Parish	150.00	

\$21,409.54\$ 1,112.29

Amount received from Congregations \$21,409.54

Amount received from Preaching Points and Sunday Schools 1,112.29

\$22,521.83

Short 2,088.17

\$24,610.00

91.5 per cent of the 1959 Apportionment received.

